

## Russia Is Safe From Missiles General Asserts

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet military leader claimed today that missiles fired at the Soviet Union would not hit their targets.

Gen. Pavel G. Kurochin, head of the Frunze Military Academy, made the claim in response to a news conference question about the Soviet anti-ballistic missile system.

Kurochkin repeated the Soviet position that ABM is defensive, with the implication that it represents no danger to world peace. The general declined to give details about the Soviet system but said, "if the rockets fly, they will not reach their targets."

President Johnson mentioned recently that the Kremlin had started an ABM system around Moscow and other reports have told of widespread ABM construction. Kurochkin's remarks indicated protection against enemy missiles is not limited to the capital.

### "Interception Complexes"

"Detecting missiles in time and destroying them in flight is no problem," he said. He referred to "interception complexes" but gave no details.

Asked if the Soviet government is considering Johnson's proposal for a moratorium on ABM installations, Kurochkin cited Premier Alexei N. Kosygin's remarks at a news conference in London Feb. 10.

Kosygin said that an anti-missile system is "designed not to kill people but to preserve human lives." He added:

"I believe that defensive systems, which prevent attack, are not the cause of the arms race, but constitute a factor preventing the death of people."

### No Explicit Rejection

Kosygin did not explicitly reject Johnson's proposal, and it is understood here that the U.S. government is continuing its attempts to interest the Kremlin in an agreement on ABM systems. The Johnson administration has indicated that failing this, the United States may have to develop a matching system of its own.

Kurochkin also made a brief attack on U.S. involvement in Vietnam, calling it "criminal aggression." Three U.S. military attaches attending the news conference walked out, the usual practice of U.S. embassy personnel in Moscow when their